

### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

#### **Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-23 were pending in the application. Claims 1-19, 22 and 23 were rejected based on prior art. Claims 20 and 21 were found to contain allowable subject matter, but were rejected because they depend from rejected base claims. Claims 1, 17, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended and claims 2, 16, 18 and 20 have been cancelled by this response.

#### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-3, 9-13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being identically disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,980,225 of Sommer. In particular, the Examiner asserted that each limitation in these claims could be found in the Sommer patent.

#### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 4-8, 14, 16-19, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious and unpatentable over the Sommer patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,678,986 of Terauchi. In making this rejection the Examiner conceded that Sommer fails to disclose the rotor mounted with an end cap on the shaft carrier, a bearing point for the rotor present on the opposite outside of the shaft carrier, a first bearing point and the rotor bearing point in the same axial plane, and the first bearing point being on the outside of the shaft carrier and consisting of a plurality of bearings. The Examiner alleges that these features are shown by Terauchi.

#### **Argument**

In the office action the Examiner found that claims 20 and 21 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the present amendment, claim 1 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claim 20 including those of intervening claims 2, 16 and 18. Claims 2, 16, 18 and 20 have been cancelled. As a result, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Further, claims 17, 19, 21 and 22 have been amended to depend directly on newly amended claim 1. The remaining claims also depend directly or indirectly on claim 1. Thus, all of the claims pending after entry of this amendment are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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